

COMMISSIONER MEETINGS
All meetings take place in the Commissioners Conference Room (3107)
located in the Stillwater Building @ 316 North 26th Street (3rd Floor)
and are open to the public unless otherwise noted

MONDAY - January 4, 2021

MEETING UPDATE

In response to recent public health concerns surrounding COVID-19, Board of County Commissioner meetings will be held in a different format. Meetings may include virtual video conferencing to comply with social distancing guidelines.

In an effort to honor your right to participate and allow for public comment we have set up a conference call line.
Please dial (406) 256-2724 Conference ID 277 749 960#

The public may comment during the specific public comment periods listed on the agenda. Please have your phone set to "mute" until the public comment period is open.

If you have questions please contact the B.O.C.C. office at (406) 256-2701 or the Clerk and Recorder at (406) 256-2787.

8:15 Calendar

8:30 Department Meetings

1. Department Head Meeting - All Department Heads
2. Human Resources
3. MetraPark
4. Finance
5. Legal/Litigation

2:00 COMMISSIONERS DISCUSSION

DEPARTMENTS

1. Continuum of Care-Patti Webster & Erika Willis - COVID-Response/Low Barrier Emergency Shelter, Q & I Facility
2. County Attorney-Scott Twito - SAUSA Program to Reduce Violent Crime
3. Public Works-Tim Miller - Mainwearing Rd Improvement Cost and Funding
4. Public Works-Mike Black - Request to Extend Abandonment of Carter Avenue for 1 Year

COMMISSIONERS

1. Commissioner Board Report

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON COUNTY BUSINESS

TUESDAY – January 5, 2021

9:00 Agenda Setting

9:30 COMMISSIONERS BOARD MEETING

B.O.C.C Monday Discussion

1.

Meeting Date: 01/04/2021

Title: COVID-Response/Low Barrier Emergency Shelter, Q & I Facility

Submitted By: Erica Wiley

TOPIC:

Continuum of Care-Patti Webster & Erika Willis - COVID-Response/Low Barrier Emergency Shelter, Q & I Facility

BACKGROUND:

see attached

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

discuss

Attachments

Continuum of Care

COVID-Response/Low Barrier Emergency Shelter, Q & I Facility

Yellowstone County Continuum of Care

How Did We Get Here?

- **March 2020:** Yellowstone County Incident Command asked for CoC assistance in developing a congregate quarantine/isolation (Q/I) facility at MetraPark
- **May 2020:** Operational challenges (cost, staffing, guests declining to stay) resulted in the Q/I facility being moved to a temporary facility in the South Billings area, purchased by Riverstone Health
- **August 2020:** Driven by the need for a larger Q/I space (especially to serve families) and an increased number of homeless people living on the street, the CoC formed a small workgroup to develop a temporary facility that could serve as both a Q/I space and an emergency low-barrier overnight shelter to address safety issues during cold winter weather.
- **October 2, 2020:** After a series of intense planning sessions, the participants developed a Consensus Memorandum of Agreement to shape the temporary facility operations for a 12-month period.
- **October 6, 2020:** HAB Development closed on the purchase of the Western Inn, located at 3311 2nd. Ave N., which will serve as the site for the temporary facility.
- **October 26, 2020:** Non-Congregate Care Order issued by Public Health Officer.



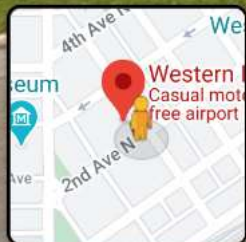
Western Inn Motel

- 40 rooms
- Opportunity for both congregate and non-congregate care
- Fully furnished rooms, security cameras at every door
- Owned outright by HAB Development; can be used for ongoing housing activities after temporary COVID/emergency shelter needs end.



Google

Image capture: Jul 2018 © 2020



Operational Plan

COVID Q/I Facility

- Serves all vulnerable populations who need Q/I space but do not need hospitalization
- Guests referred through a medical provider **only**
- Non-congregate care only – up to 20 rooms
- Guests can stay 24/7 until medical need resolves
- 3 meals per day (Salvation Army) + basic comfort care
- Healthcare for Homeless will check on guests periodically
- Can be a point of intersection/referral for other community services if needed

Low Barrier Emergency Shelter

- Serves virtually all persons in need of overnight shelter ***who cannot be served by an existing community provider***
 - Diversion is fundamental to this project
 - Pets, sex offenders may be barred from entry
- Operates from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. daily
 - Guests must vacate rooms daily
- Congregate and non-congregate options
 - Persons who can't safely be in a room will be placed in congregate space
- No services provided by the Facility
 - Existing providers are welcomed/encouraged to intersect
- Community Crisis Center will serve as primary Front Door for entry and diversion to all community providers

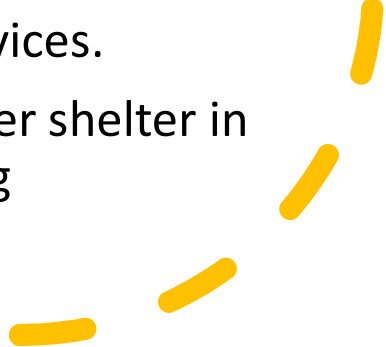


Desired Outcomes

1. A reduction in the amount of time from Facility admission to eligibility for long-term community and housing services
 - *Stabilize people so that they can successfully participate in their own goal-setting and problem-solving with care providers*
2. A reduction in the use of emergency department services and arrests/law enforcement encounters
 - *Single point of entry to enable people to be diverted to most appropriate service provider without consuming first responder time*
 - *Focus on social service interventions to reduce system burdens*
3. Identification of previously unserved individuals and development of a pathway to services
 - *Increase the number of people served by the CoC – not reduce the number of people participating in existing services*

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Additional Benefits

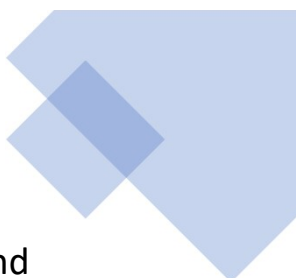

- Improved public health outcomes – providing more space for appropriate quarantine/isolation needs among vulnerable populations
 - Backstop for existing providers who need to limit overnight stays or reduce populations to limit virus transmission
 - Improved coordination of services, including street outreach, to engage more persons in need
 - Reduced duplication through better collaboration
 - Additional opportunities to engage with homeless population and refer to necessary services.
 - Real-world data on need for low-barrier shelter in the community, to shape CoC planning
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- A series of four short, curved yellow lines in the bottom right corner of the slide, arranged in a slightly upward-curving sequence.

Memorandum of Agreement

- ***All Members of the Yellowstone County CoC Invited to Participate***
- ***Participants:*** Housing Authority of Billings, District 7 HRDC, Billings Clinic, the Crisis Center, St. Vincent de Paul, Healthcare for the Homeless, the Downtown Business Association, the Salvation Army, Tumbleweed, Riverstone Health, and Besaw Integrity Consulting
 - Rimrock joined for staffing and client flow planning
 - Participants all responded to a request for interested parties to engage in planning
- All decisions made by consensus agreement
- MOA addresses: population served, facility location, scope of services, management, safety, insurance/liability, staffing, security, supplies and equipment, oversight and operations, budget, funding, public communications and data gathering
- Non-binding, likely to evolve and change as operations begin



Key Decisions

- Oversight: CoC Executive Committee will provide governance and direction; Participant group will continue to meet monthly for additional coordination and guidance
 - Site director is being hired on 12-month contract for day-to-day operations
 - Operations will commence between Oct. 15-Nov. 1
 - Facility is being equipped for operations now; may phase in occupancy
 - Monthly operations budget estimated at \$150,000 per month
 - Funding organizations will either direct purchase goods/services or direct to United Way as fiscal agent
 - Intention decision to keep the project as a community-led effort, rather than hand over to any single organization. Keeps project temporary and allows independent, arms-length evaluation of efficacy and on-going need.
 - Sources of funding: FEMA funds, ESG funds, donations, collaborations. County support needed here as all FEMA has to go through County DES Office and State DES Office.
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Important Takeaways

- Project is designed to serve entire community and benefit all CoC Members:
 - Improved public health
 - More coordinated services – especially diversion
 - More people brought into services through outreach and additional opportunities for engagement
- Project is intentionally designed to be temporary, emergency-response driven, and fact-finding
 - Allows CoC to have evidence-based discussion on community needs and design best responses
- Project has access to funding, but still needs partner support! FEMA application and pass-through agency.



Questions & Discussion

B.O.C.C Monday Discussion

2.

Meeting Date: 01/04/2021

Title: SAUSA Program to Reduce Violent Crime

Submitted For: Scott Twito

Submitted By: Amy Tolzien

TOPIC:

County Attorney-Scott Twito - SAUSA Program to Reduce Violent Crime

BACKGROUND:

Joint grant with US Attorney's Office to share prosecutor to support the Project Guardian Initiative / Project Safe neighborhoods

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Discuss

B.O.C.C Monday Discussion

3.

Meeting Date: 01/04/2021

Title: Mainwearing Rd Improvements Cost and Funding

Submitted For: Tim Miller, Public Works Director

Submitted By: Tim Miller, Public Works Director

TOPIC:

Public Works-Tim Miller - Mainwearing Rd Improvement Cost and Funding

BACKGROUND:

The County was contacted by Yellowstone Drag Strip about improvements to the county road (Mainwearing Rd) that access their facility. Public Works has put together some cost estimates for these improvements.

Yellowstone Drag Strip would like to have discussions with the commissioners about funding for these improvements.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

NA

B.O.C.C Monday Discussion

4.

Meeting Date: 01/04/2021

Title: Request to Extend abandonment of Carter Avenue for 1 Year

Submitted By: Mike Black

TOPIC:

Public Works-Mike Black - Request to Extend Abandonment of Carter Avenue for 1 Year

BACKGROUND:

n/a

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

FYI

Attachments

Letter Request



608 North 29th Street • Billings, MT 59101 • 406-384-0080

December 30, 2020

Mr. Mike Black
Yellowstone County Public Works
316 North 26th Street
Billings, MT 59101

RE: Boyce Smith – Sanford Subdivision ROW Abandonment Extension

Dear Mr. Black:

Following our conversation yesterday regarding finalization of the ROW abandonment within the Sanford Subdivision for Boyce Smith I'm formally requesting a 12-month extension to complete the process. We've completed the majority of the work, including the plat and petition but need additional time to complete the filing and RSID adjustments. We see no issue in completing the final components within the coming months to finalize the process. We appreciate your consideration and look forward to working with the County to complete the process. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call should you have any questions at 406-384-0080 or through email at scott@performance-ec.com.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Aspenlieder', written over a horizontal line.

Scott Aspenlieder, PE
Project Manager

B.O.C.C Monday Discussion

1.

Meeting Date: 01/04/2021

Title: Commissioner Board Report

Submitted By: Erica Wiley

TOPIC:

Commissioner Board Report

BACKGROUND:

n/a

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Discuss
